

GCC studies Indian Ocean pipeline

BAHRAIN (AP) — A strategic oil pipeline to link the Arab countries of the Gulf region to terminals on the Indian Ocean was being studied by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals, the Omani oil minister was quoted Sunday as disclosing. Saeed Al Shanfari told the London-based, Arabic-language magazine Gulf Development that a decision was expected within the next three months on the project. "It's more of a strategic than an economic project," said Mr. Shanfari. "The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries view it realistically, and Iraq has expressed a desire to be linked to Saudi Arabia through the proposed pipeline."

Volume 9 Number 2722

AMMAN, MONDAY NOVEMBER 19, 1984, SAFAR 25, 1405

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King congratulates Omani leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a telegram of good wishes to Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman on the occasion of the Gulf state's 14th National Day anniversary. In a speech he delivered on the occasion, Sultan Qaboos hailed Jordan's restoration of diplomatic relations with Oman saying that Egypt has always worked to strengthen Arab and Islamic ties. (See page 2)

Habitat official arrives Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — A specialist from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) is due here on Thursday for talks with officials of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment. Mr. Nicholas will discuss with the officials the prospect of setting up a regional centre for manpower development and training in projects pertaining to human settlement schemes. Agreement has been reached in talks with the Jordanian government on the establishment of the centre in Jordan to offer services and advice to all Arab states. The centre will first try to define the needs of each country in terms of manpower training and the skill required for carrying out urban and rural development schemes.

Fahd meets Heseltine

RIYADH (AP) — British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine conferred here Sunday with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, amid speculation the kingdom was to buy ultra-modern British-made warplanes and anti-aircraft Rapier missile systems. The Saudi Press Agency said the meeting was attended by Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and the Saudi ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sultan.

Israeli soldier remanded in custody

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli soldier accused of carrying out a rocket attack on a Palestinian bus that killed one person was remanded in custody Sunday until the end of legal proceedings against him. Court officials said, David Ben-Shimon was remanded by a district court. Three other Israeli soldiers, one a woman, have also been questioned over the rocket attack.

Nigeria denies reported coup plot

LAGOS (R) — A spokesman for Nigeria's military government Sunday denied a London newspaper report of a foiled coup plot in the country. Wada Mada, official spokesman for military leader Major-General Mohammed Buhari, told Reuters: "No one has uncovered any plot to topple this government." The report in the Observer Sunday said 42 officers and men, including two lieutenant-colonels and four majors, were executed in an underground shooting range in Ikeja, outside Lagos, after the plot was uncovered.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Hussein calls for Arab dialogue to safeguard security

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has called on all Arab leaders to embark on a rational dialogue with the aim of arriving at an acceptable formula of joint action to serve the whole Arab Nation. "A dialogue does not mean that immediate agreement should result; and disagreement in views does not mean that Arab leaders should raise arms against one another," the King said in an address Sunday at the Royal Command and Staff Academy.

"Political views of individual Arab states should be separated from economic cooperation among them because inter-Arab cooperation should be maintained for the benefit of all Arab citizens," the King told the 25th batch of graduates from the academy. "We have to remember that to preserve the security of our individual states we have to safeguard pan-Arab security," King Hussein told the graduates, who included a number of officers from various Arab states. "Some Arab states have disregarded pan-Arab security and supported external aggressive powers against Arab countries," the King said. "These countries do not realise that once they shirk

their pan-Arab responsibility they tend to endanger their own security and if this trend continues every single Arab state will be facing danger," he said. "The problems facing our nation remain unresolved and the colonial imperialists in Palestine are pursuing their goals actively and making prospects for a just solution to the Middle East question impossible," the King said. He added that the Arab World "is still plagued by differences opening the door for the enemies of the Arabs to continue their aggression on us and launch fresh ones. We should not be in conflict with one another, but should agree on implementing the Arab League Charter which binds us all."

"The Arabs," he said, "still disagree over the four-year-old Gulf war although we are all signatories of the joint Arab Defence Pact". Some Arab states, he added, still support Iran, the aggressor, while Tehran continues to adhere to its losing war of attrition.

The King also accused "certain Arab states" of "openly meddling in the affairs of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and working to divide and wreck it."

"The Arabs," he said, "still disagree on the return of Egypt to the Arab fold despite the fact that they agree that Egypt has an important international weight, and is a country of great potential that can be put into use in confronting enemy designs and the knowledge that Egypt will be serving the aims of Zionism if it remains outside the Arab fold."

Also, King Hussein said, the Arabs still differ on the convening of an Arab summit meeting which can settle inter-Arab problems.

He also said that "the Arabs should try to reach a formula for economic integration among their states and they can do that by first embarking on eliminating all negative elements that impede social and economic development, since overlooking and neglecting national development is harmful to pan-Arab security and overall development and progress."



His Majesty King Hussein presents graduation certificate to one of the 25th batch of new officers from the Royal Command and Staff Academy who graduated Sunday (Petra photo)

The King said that Jordan has been following in the footsteps of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and will continue to adhere to these principles in dealing with sister states. "For this reason and in this spirit Jordan took part in the 1967 and 1973 wars in defence and in support of Arab states, and now continues to support Iraq in its legitimate defence against aggression," he said. "With the same spirit," he added, "Jordan has resumed relations with Egypt and continues to support the legitimate PLO leadership, and also in the same spirit Jordan will be willing to extend a helping hand to any Arab country in need of help."

The commander of the Royal Command and Staff Academy earlier made a speech welcoming the King and congratulating the graduates who included 30 officers from different Arab armed forces.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Public Security Director Diab Yusuf, ambassadors and military attaches of Arab countries which have officers among the graduates, a number of senior army officers and an audience of invited guests.

Khalaf: Fateh will leave PLO if PNC fails to secure quorum

By Lamis K. Andoni with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The second man of Fateh, the mainstream Palestinian commando group, said Sunday Fateh would leave the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) if a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), scheduled to meet in Amman Thursday, failed to secure a quorum.

Mr. Salah Khalaf, a senior member of the Fateh Central Committee, was quoted by Reuters as telling a group of Palestinians in Kuwait that he was confident that the two-third quorum needed for the 17th session of the Palestinian parliament in exile in Amman will attend the session. But Mr. Khalaf added: "Fateh will pull out of the PLO if the PNC does not achieve a quorum for its meeting in Amman."

Palestinian observers in Amman said Mr. Khalaf's statement was meant to assert that Fateh has secured the required quorum and the Fateh official's comment was in reply to doubts cast by the Damascus-based speaker of the PNC, Khaled Al Fahum, that the number of the members that will attend will be much less than the two-third quorum.

The thrust of the campaign focused on raising doubts about the legitimacy of the meeting and accusing Fateh of deviating from the PLO Charter. The criticism and boycott by seven other PLO factions have so far not affected Fateh's determination to go ahead and convene the council in Amman, and the movement's leaders reiterated Sunday that the decision was final.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat strongly stressed that "by convening (the PNC) in Amman, we will be away from the influence and scrutiny of the Syrian intelligence."

A key faction in the "democratic alliance", the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), announced Saturday that it had welcomed the Executive Committee meeting and accused its ally, the PFLP, of trying to impede the functions of PLO institutions.

In an interview with the Paris-based pan-Arab weekly Al Watan Al Arabi, Mr. Arafat said that convening the council in Amman will strengthen Jordanian-Palestinian coordination which aims at "breaking the current stalemate in the Arab World."

The Jordan Times contacted several PNC members of these who expressed disappointment at the cancellation of the Executive Committee meeting.

"By calling on the Executive Committee to meet Fateh has not exactly responded to our suggestions, but an Executive Committee meeting would have provided a good start," said an independent PNC member who asked not to be named.

For many PNC members, who advocate the postponement of the PNC, an Executive Committee meeting meant the last chance for effecting any change in Fateh's position. "We are sure now that it is too late to do anything to postpone the PNC," said another member, who supports the "democratic alliance."

The PNC members contacted by the Jordan Times also criticised the PFLP for rejecting Mr. Arafat's call. They also said that Fateh made a hasty decision by calling on the PNC to meet.

The Jordan Times has learnt that about 10 of the 37 members are expected to attend the PNC session while several members indicated that they had not made up their mind yet as of Sunday.

Egypt predicts 'new Libyan conspiracies'

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, having foiled what it says was a Libyan assassination plot, warned world leaders to be on guard against new terrorist schemes and said the war against Libyan terrorism goes on.

The Egyptians were congratulating themselves Sunday on what seems to have been a stunning intelligence coup.

As told Friday by President Hosni Mubarak and his interior minister, Ahmad Rushdi, Egyptian security arrested four Libyan-paid hit men here late in October and early November. When they revealed their target was Cairo-based former Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Al Bakoussi, an opponent of Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan leader, Egypt spirited him away and set out to dupe their Libyan masters.

An Egyptian undercover man posing as a recruit to the killer squad carried to Libya's embassy in Malta faked photographs of him sprawled and soaked in blood.

When Libya's official JANA news agency said on Friday night that Mr. Bakoussi, 46, had been successfully "executed," Egypt waited for 24 hours. Then Mr. Mubarak proclaimed him "alive and well" and he appeared in a televised news conference.

But at the same news conference, Interior Minister Rushdi declared: "The war against Libyan terrorism is not over."

"We have more information of several other attempts against Egypt by the Libyan government... the battle between terrorism and civilisation will continue," Mr. Rushdi said.

Mr. Mubarak, at a rally in the Nile Delta town of Benha, said Egypt had learned that several world leaders including those of Saudi Arabia, West Germany, Britain, France and Pakistan were targets of current assassination schemes linked to Libya.

And the Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted Egyptian officials as saying Col. Qadhafi financed a plot to kill the Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi long before she sent troops into the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Mr. Bakoussi has lived in Egypt since 1977 as a political refugee, and formed with a small group of Libyan exiles the Libyan Liberation Movement.

Qadhafi describes Reagan as 'mad', page 2

Lebanon prepares new Kharroub plan

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese government officials wrangled over the details of a security plan for the region north of the Israeli occupation zone as Lebanon and Israel prepared to resume their troop withdrawal talks on Monday.

State-run Beirut Radio said Sunday that the government would announce its new security plan for the Kharroub region within two days and implement it within 10 days.

But Lebanese newspapers reported that Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) Walid Junblat was insisting on assurances that any Lebanese army unit sent into the area contain a balanced mix of Christian and Muslim soldiers and be under orders to treat the mostly Druze PSP and predominantly Christian militias in the Kharroub even-handedly.

The security plan under discussion in Beirut would deploy several battalions of Lebanese army soldiers in the Kharroub region, which extends 15 kilometres north of the Israeli army's Awali River line in South Lebanon.

The foothills and mountains of the area currently are held by the PSP militia, while the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia holds the coastal area.

Periodic Israeli patrols through the region have kept the militias from prolonged clashes, and many fear that a rapid Israeli pullout from the area south of the Kharroub could touch off a war. The Israeli withdrawal from the central Shuf mountains last fall touched off a new round of civil warfare in Lebanon.

Lebanese army deployment in the Kharroub also would put the army in a position to move south in an orderly fashion when Israel withdraws its estimated 17,000 troops.

Speaking at a luncheon in his hometown of Tripoli in northern Lebanon, Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami said he remained optimistic about the Israeli-Lebanon troop withdrawal negotiations.

Craxi, Egyptian leaders discuss Mideast issues

CAIRO (R) — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi held separate talks Sunday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali on Middle East and other issues.

Mr. Ali said later his discussions with Mr. Craxi covered the Middle East, security in the Mediterranean and military cooperation.

Mr. Craxi, accompanied by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, arrived in Cairo Sunday and plans to leave Monday for Saudi Arabia after inspecting the Italian contingent in the Sinai multi-national peacekeeping force.

shown "readiness to undertake all efforts to push the peace process in the Middle East, especially in that Italy will chair the European Community (EC) next January."

"We discussed Europe's efforts to solve the Middle East problem especially after the American elections," Mr. Ali said.

Mr. Mubarak recently called during a European tour for a more active European role in the search for a settlement in the Middle East.

Mr. Ali said Sunday's discussions also covered the prospects of further military cooperation between the two countries.

Syria seeks 'appropriate' French role in Mideast

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has said he wants to cement relations with France, and hoped France would play an "appropriate role" in the search for a solution to Middle East problems.

In an interview on France's TF1 television station, Sunday, he said next week's visit to Syria by French President Francois Mitterrand would "stabilise good relations between the two countries."

"This is what we want and I expect that President Mitterrand wants this too," Mr. Assad said.

"We hope France will play an appropriate role... in finding solutions to Middle East causes," he said.

In Lebanon, however, where France contributed troops to a now-defunct multinational force, Mr. Assad said French help was welcome but should not extend to military intervention.

Mr. Assad strongly condemned terrorism, but said this should be distinguished from resistance to Israeli occupation of Arab land.

Syria was "against terrorism in Lebanon, but with the Lebanese national resistance against the Israeli invasion."

Mr. Assad attacked the U.S. for its "unlimited" military and economic support for Israel, which he said "wants to occupy our territories and set up a state from the Nile to the Euphrates."

He said U.S. officials constantly repeated their commitment to Israel's "security". But while they professed to have friends in the Arab World, "we have not heard them stressing their commitment to the security of any Arab country."

He contrasted U.S. policy with that of the Soviet Union, which he said was "a friendly country which believes in peace and acts for it. It does not interfere in our internal affairs and because of this stable relations exist between us."

He urged Washington to follow Moscow's example if it wanted better relations with Syria. "All we want is for the U.S. to be neutral," he added.

PNC session in Amman: What people in Jordan think

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) decision to hold the 17th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman on Nov. 22 is drawing mixed reactions from Jordanians and Palestinians alike. According to an opinion survey conducted by the Jordan Times over the past two days, a good majority of the public welcomed the move as an impetus to end the crisis facing the PLO while others saw it as a step towards a permanent split in the organisation. The survey, conducted by Jordan Times reporters Salameh B. Ne'mat, Saad G. Hattar and Rana Sabbagh, also found that some people simply did not care whether the PNC is held in Amman as scheduled while some others were totally ignorant of the issue or the circumstances surrounding it. Following is the report:

Nasser Bilbeisi, 20, a student in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Jordan, said that the holding of the PNC in Amman enhances the cohesion of the Jordanian and Palestinian "regardless of the results."

"As Jordanians we welcome our brothers and respect their decision to hold it here," Nasser said. Lamia Marji, 20, a student at the Faculty of Literature, said: "We sympathise with the Palestinian people and their cause. We hope that they will reach practical decisions and that it would not be like any council or Arab

meeting that resulted in nothing." Mohammad Hassan, 20, said he heard about the holding of the PNC but "we are puzzled with the conflicting opinions over holding it here." Hassan, a student of literature at the university, said "we do not understand the reason why (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat wants to hold it here, or why the other factions in the PLO oppose it."

A student of literature, who identified himself as Abeer, said she did not expect important decisions to be taken during the planned PNC session, "but everything is possible."

A Faculty of Trade student, who asked not to be identified, said, she was not much informed about the situation. "I do not expect any good results. What are the previous achievements?" she asked. "Nothing tangible... all is just talk."

Safa Mirza, a student in the Faculty of Education, said: "The step is very good as Jordan is the neighbour of Palestine and is considered responsible for the Palestinians."

Yunis Yussef, an Iraqi student of commerce, said Jordan is "the second home" for the Palestinians. "The results of the meeting will be positive," he said. He criticised the pressure applied by Syria on certain factions of the PLO and said the Palestinian decision should be "100 per cent independent."

Hassan Mustafa, a student of commerce, said: "My opinion is that the dissidents in the PLO have given up the unity of Palestinians which is their own cause." According to what is seen and heard in the media, "they are betraying their principles and origins," Hassan contended.

Yassera Gboshah, a student of law, welcomed the idea as a "prerequisite" for a more united Palestinian stand. "If we as Palestinians are not able to unite... then how do we expect the unity of the Arab Nation?" she said.

"If we as people start saying that Fateh does not represent us and so forth it would be the first step towards giving up our cause," she added. "The divisions in the PLO weaken our strength which will lead to the success of the conspiracy of the alternative homeland."

Samer Khouri, a student of mathematics, said it was not important where the PNC is held. "Even if they hold it in the occupied territories... the main thing is to reach a result," he said. In regards to pressures applied by Syria on the PLO, Gboshah said "such pressures are being practised on all parties."

Nashat Jurf, a student of architecture, said the situation called for such a meeting "as we are witnessing a divisional phase within the PLO which we have not experienced before."

"In order to solve our problems we have to meet and those who oppose the idea are under pressure," he added.

A kiosk salesman at the university, Juma'a Ya'koub, said the Palestine issue needs to be revitalised for it to come out of the current state of stagnation. He said the idea of holding the PNC in Amman was positive and since the majority of the Palestinian people are living in Jordan, the venue is most suitable.

About 10 students interviewed at the university were either indifferent or ignorant about the issue of holding the PNC in Amman. They were either answering the question with another or saying that it did not concern them. One of them said: "We do not feel involved in the decision-making process and that why we lost interest."

A taxi driver interviewed by the Jordan Times expressed hope that "Palestinians will reach a proper decision." Hosni Muhawesh said: "If divisions widened it will lead to a worse situation. Protests by Syria and Libya should be ignored."

Nancy Zananiri, owner of a music store, said she supported the idea of holding the PNC in Amman, "but the most important thing is not to have any more divisions in the Palestinian ranks." Mrs. Zananiri said the voice of Palestinians "has to be heard." She criticised the "negative attitude" among the Palestinian leaders. In reference to factions opposed to Mr. Arafat, she said that all factions should participate in the planned PNC session, because "any dialogue will be positive and will promote understanding."

Mrs. Zananiri, who is a Jordanian married to a Palestinian, described the situation within the PLO as "disgusting." She said that "the right people should be in the

right places" as far as leadership is concerned.

"We have many potentials among young people who are resentful of the situation. We have hope in the future generations who will be able to be more constructive provided they get the chance," she said.

A giftshop owner declined comment while an optical shop owner said he had no time to comment on the issue.

Mohammad Qasrawi, a ready-to-wear-garments dealer, said: "As a citizen I have no opinion. If the government agrees to holding the PNC in Amman, I agree."

He said Palestinians "are geographically and ideologically linked with Jordan" and that the holding of the meeting here was "natural."

The director general of the Jordan Gulf Bank in Shmeisani, Munir Ayesh, said the holding of the PNC meeting "will not change anything. The differences have to

(Continued on page 2)

Ma'an voters go to the polls

MA'AN (Petra) — In Ma'an 4,985 voters Sunday went to cast their votes for the municipal elections to elect a new 10-member municipal council out of 21 candidates. For the first time in Ma'an women will be able to cast their votes in the elections. Candidates were divided into two blocs: the solidarity bloc led by Ahmad Abu Uqla, the youth bloc led by Mohammad Kreishan in addition to the independent candidate Sheikh Faleh Al Rawwad.

Ma'an Governor Salem Al Qudah said that all the necessary arrangements have been made to ensure that elections will be held in an atmosphere of order and stability and to allow all citizens to practice their right to vote.

Symposium tackles hospital hygiene, control of infections

AMMAN (J.T.) — Diseases resulting from joint infections, infection of the genito-urinary tract and infection of bones and soft tissues were among the main topics discussed at a symposium on "Infection Control and Hospital Hygiene" which continued at Al Hussein Medical Centre Sunday.

According to Dr. Jalal Haddadin, the symposium's supervisor, the participants also discussed the role of laboratories in hospital infection, the use of antibiotics and the surgery of the gall bladder and all forms and effects of germs and microbes in the hospital.

He said that the symposium, organised in cooperation with the West German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), is attended by specialists from West Germany, Britain and Jordan. He told the Jordan Times that the participants also reviewed the causes of infections in the nursery and in control during sessions which will last until Wednesday.

Delegation reviews medical, cultural cooperation

Yarmouk team returns from education talks in China

AMMAN (Petra) — A team from Yarmouk University, led by Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran, returned to Amman Sunday from a two-week visit to China. During the visit, they called at universities and discussed with officials cooperation in educational and cultural affairs between Jordanian and Chinese institutions.

According to team member Dr. Sa'd Hijazi, the university's dean of the Faculty of Medicine, the two sides discussed exchange of expertise in physiotherapy, physical training and massage and also

acupuncture. The team toured hospitals in Shanghai and inspected modern ways of treating various cases and diseases. Dr. Hijazi said. The team also visited engineering colleges and fine arts

institutes in a number of Chinese cities, and Dr. Badran requested that sculptors be sent to Jordan to help university students train in the art of sculpture. Dr. Hijazi said.

He added that the Jordanian team examined the role of Chinese women in development and presented a briefing on Jordanian women. The team members, he said, toured historical and archaeological sites and also agricultural projects and public parks in southern China.

Jordan, Pakistan open trade, bilateral cooperation meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Pakistan opened talks in Amman Sunday aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation in cultural, technical, economic, trade, technological and air transport fields.

The talks are being conducted through a joint committee which is also discussing the implementation of a bilateral agreement signed in 1978, according to the secretary general of the Ministry of Planning, Dr. Ziyad Fariz. He said the committee will continue talks in Amman Monday.

The Pakistani side to the talks, which arrived here Saturday evening, includes the secretary general of economic affairs at the ministry of trade and production, other representatives from the ministry and Pakistan's ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Ehsan Ershad. The Jordanian side groups representatives of the ministries of education, planning, industry and trade, labour and the University of Jordan as well as Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline and the Royal Scientific Society.

Pakistani planning minister to lecture on economic issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — Or. Mahbubul Haq, Pakistan's Minister for Planning and Development, is expected in Amman today at the invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Dr. Haq is an eminent economist of international repute and is a founding member of the Third World Forum, Chairman of North-South Round Table and Chairman of the Rio-Foundations.

During his visit he will deliver a lecture on "Issues in North-South Economic Dialogue" at the University of Jordan at 4 p.m. on 21st November.

Dr. Haq has authored several books including "Strategy of Economic Planning", "The Poverty Curtain", and "The Third World and the International Economic Order".

JEA awards Rehab tenders

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has awarded the tenders related to the construction of the Rehab substation in Maifra district. The project includes a tender for the civil works which was awarded to a local company, another tender for the supply of 132/33 K.V. switchgears, awarded to a British company, while a Finnish company will supply and erect two 132/33 K.V. transformers.

Head of Substations Section at JEA's Transmission and Distribution Department Wa'el Sabri said that the purpose of constructing this JO 1.25 million substation is to strengthen the feeding of the Irbid District Electricity Company (IOECO) networks from the National Transmission Grid stretching from the south to the north of the country. The project is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 1986.

Meanwhile JEA has electrified the village of Al Zahraa' in Karak Governorate after erecting a 33 K.V. voltage line, a 100 KVA substation and a low voltage network in the village. JEA Karak District Manager Hamed Al Nababteh said that Mu'ta University has been supplied with electricity during this month after erecting the necessary transmission lines and a 500 KVA substation. Mr. Nababteh called on all citizens to keep away from both the high and low voltage lines for their safety.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministry approves 10 industry licences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade has approved the licensing of ten new industrial projects with a total cost of JO 974,000. The new projects will produce pre-cast concrete, plastic pipes, cement pipes, tiles, biscuits, soap, cheese, chandeliers and other products. The new industries will provide 262 employment opportunities throughout the country. The ministry has stipulated that these new industries should abide by the specifications and public health regulations issued by the ministry's department of specifications and standardisations.

USS Lasalle calls at Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Flagship of the U.S. Navy's Middle East Force, the USS Lasalle, will pay a port call in Aqaba from 17 to 20 November 1984, according to a United States Information Agency bulletin. Ships of the command regularly call at Aqaba as part of their routine port visits to friendly states in the region. The Lasalle is a command and communications ship, a converted amphibious transport ship (LPD) of the Raleigh class. While in Aqaba, officers of the ship will pay calls on military and civilian officials.

ICRC plans chemical weapons talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairmen of standing commissions of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS) will hold a meeting at the league's headquarters in Geneva on Dec. 12. Chairman of the International Red Cross Standing Commission and chairman of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society, Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, said that the production, use and storage of chemical weapons as well as tests on chemical bombs in a number of advanced countries will be the main topic of the meeting.

Medical exams postponed until Dec. 22

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Medical Council (JMC) has decided to postpone general exams for doctors until Dec. 22, according to a JMC spokesman. The spokesman added that 530 doctors, including 157 doctors from the West Bank have registered for the exam which will be held simultaneously in Amman and Jerusalem. The spokesman also told that the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the council will reconsider the possibility of holding the exam in Kuwait at the same time.

Department plans Arab cities seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Antiquities is planning to hold an international seminar next September to discuss the ruins of Petra and the 'caravan' cities in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria. The seminar is to be held in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Jordanian national education, cultural and scientific committee.

Wafa Dajani and Sons welcome Mr. Arthur Bazeley to Jordan

AMMAN — Vice President of the American Admiral Home Appliances Corporation Arthur Bazeley arrived in Amman from the United States on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of Wafa Dajani and Sons Company, agents of Admiral products in Jordan.

The visit is within a tour Mr. Bazeley is making in the Middle East region during which he will look into the process of marketing Admiral products and the maintenance operations which enjoy a high reputation. The Wafa Dajani company has prepared a working programme for Mr. Bazeley's visit to let him know the company's operations. Mr. Bazeley is on the company's successful pany's operations. Mr. Bazeley is on the company's successful pany's operations. Mr. Bazeley is on the company's successful pany's operations.



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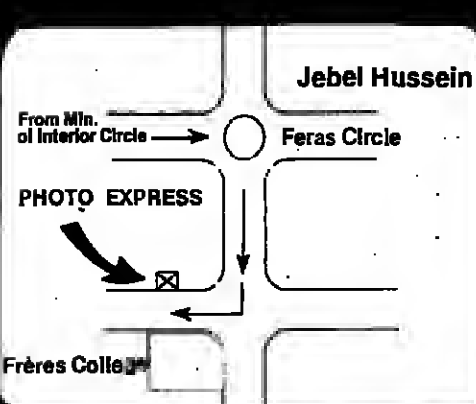


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— Local bedroom 6-door wardrobes, stereo, radio, lighting and mirrors together with ready mounted mattresses of different colours	450
— Italian bedroom, six-door wardrobes with stereo, radio lighting and mattresses which come in different colours	450
— German bedroom, six-door wardrobes with stereo, radio, mattresses lighting mirrors installed -different colours	375
— Italian carved bedroom, six-door wardrobes with mattresses	550
— Italian carved bedroom, six-door wardrobes, stereo, radio, mattresses	600
— Set of armchairs (long couch + our smaller ones) different colours	165
— Set of armchairs (one long couch of three seats one with two seats and three smaller ones)	175
— Deluxe set of armchairs (one couch with three large seats + one with two seats + three smaller ones)	235
— Elegant set of armchairs (one big + two-seat chair + three separate seats)	265
— Turkish set of carved of armchairs (one big with three seats + four individual seats (deluxe) + two individuals separate ones of normal size + set of three small drawing room marble-top coffee tables	850
— Italian buffet with radio-light	135
— Italian carved buffet (three pieces)	245
— German buffet with stereo, lighting, radio (different colours)	165
— German buffet with lighting (different colours)	145
— Italian buffet (three pieces)	185
— Italian dining room table with drawers	23
— Expandable dining room table	35
— Chrome-dining room-chair (upholstered)	4
— Upholstered dining room chair (wooden and can be folded)	5
— Deluxe dining room chrome chair	10
— Deluxe dining room wooden chair	10
— Dining room carved wooden chair with high back	18.5
— Five-piece Italian chrome coffee-tables (glass-top)	35
— Set of beech-wood coffee tables (local four pieces)	37.5
— Set of chrome or wooden coffee tables (four pieces)	39
— Turkish set of carved wood coffee tables (glass top, four pieces)	129
— Italian carved wood coffee tables (wooden top four pieces)	85
— Two door wooden wardrobe	38
— Single bedstead with mattress (wooden)	24
— Two storey beech wood bed with mattress	68
— Local made Morris style set (wooden)	175
— Wall clock	4
— Bathroom cupboard with light	5
— Aladdin heater	20
— Vacuum cleaner for carpet with shampoo (manual)	11
— Electrical carpet vacuum cleaner	38
— Sharp video with remote control	285
— Orion Video (Japanese) with remote control (wireless)	285
— 12 foot refrigerator	170
— 14-foot refrigerator	185
— Five-point gas range (Italian with one or two doors)	135
— Oggi washing machine	27.5
— 20-inch colour television set	175
— 20-inch colour television with remote control	190
— Double-cassette recorder-radio	44
— Stereo cassette recorder radio with separate loudspeakers	80
— Table electric fan	14
— Study desk with two drawers	33
— auxiliary office chair	29
— Office executive chair	39
— Secretary chair	16
— Three lamp chrome chandelier (silver or golden colour)	15
— Four lamp chrome chandelier (silver or golden colour)	20
— Five lamp chrome chandelier (silver or golden colour)	25
— Office leather chair (S-shaped)	11
— Leather armchair for office (S-shaped)	19
— Television table (two shelf wooden or chrome)	9
— Television table (chrome or wood (three shelf))	12
— Television table (chrome or wood (three shelf))	17
— Carved dining room set of furniture (local, 8-chair + buffet + table)	460
— Child bed (chrome)	11.5
— Child bed (wooden)	12.5
— Single bedroom (complete set)	118
— Double size woolen blanket	10
— Single size woolen blanket	7
— Wall to wall carpet (burlap-Belgian) price per metre	1.950
— Carpet (3 x 4)	55
— Curtains (price per metre)	1.5
— Washing machine with wringer	110
— German kitchen of different colours	245
— Large size washing machine with drier	100

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Jordan Times

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 Telegram: **JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan**
 The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
 Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Inter-Lebanese war should be stopped

By Tareq Masarweh

HAVING ACCEPTED the idea of quitting the trenches and barricades to fill ministerial positions, the Lebanese leaders should stop playing dual roles at the same time. As leaders of militias confronting one another in the streets of Beirut and on the mountains around the city, these leaders tend to assume a different role in the cabinet meetings of Prime Minister Rashid Karami. While assuming the status of militia leaders, these ministers are playing quite a destructive role in Lebanon because they continue to lead their men and their party and Lebanon to total ruin. In the cabinet, however, the same ministers tend to show us the other face; that they are in total harmony and support measures

for putting an end to bloodshed. We are indeed bewildered by these actions of Lebanese politicians who act quite differently from their colleagues in the Arab World. Lebanon embraces a large group of cultured and well-educated people, but at the same time groups an assortment of different mentalities and political parties of extreme attitudes and diverse orientations. Strangely enough, many of these cultured people belong to backward, feudal political systems and are affiliated to different communal sectarian divisions; and their country as a whole plays host to internal strife and offers fertile ground for trading in weapons of all sorts and bloodshed.

It is not easy to understand what is really happening inside Lebanon in the light of the current circumstances. Beirut, the capital, does not fall under the control of the central government, and the situation in the city is far worse than ever before, even under the Israeli siege. Nevertheless, Lebanese leaders and combatants sit in the cabinet hall from time to time to discuss progress in the negotiations with Israel for pulling out its troops from southern Lebanon and also ways to re-establish government control in the South.

The warring ministers agree that the Lebanese army should be redeployed in the South following an Israeli withdrawal, but fail to agree on opening the road from Beirut to Sidon for their army to pass through because this road is under the control of their militiamen. These ministers want the Arab World to believe that they form a state while they cannot keep control over their capital or the road leading from it to Damascus, the nearest Arab capital to Beirut. The areas around Beirut itself continue to serve as a battleground for the combatants and between the militia and the central government's force. Reports reaching Amman from Beirut speak of mass movements of people from one area to another and re-settlement of different communities in regions they believe to be safer. Reports also speak of an exodus of Lebanese citizens from their towns and cities, drive by fear of flying bullets, bombs and shells towards remote regions believed to be out of reach of the warring militias. The situation in Beirut is one of total exhaustion and near collapse, and for the Arabs to mourn the dead and to express horror or regret at what is happening serves no one any good. Unless something urgent is done, Lebanon will be facing yet another civil war.

The only way out of the present dilemma is for another dominant power to interfere, since no one party can have a decisive victory over another. Lebanon is in need of an external power to put an end to the tragedy, and this power is Syria, which has had influence over all warring factions and continues to hold a dominant role in directing the destiny of Lebanon. Syria has strong links with all Lebanese leaders whether they are ministers in the present government or warlords in the provinces; and therefore it can persuade every one of its role to settle the crisis for good.

Syria can offer full backing to Mr. Karami and so put an end to the dual role of its ministers. It can offer the ministers the choice of being outlaws or supporting the law and order in Lebanon. Syria has to act now so as to safeguard Lebanon's security and stability and its own.

Med-Dead fails Israel

THE ISRAELI government is shelving the Med-Dead Sea canal project, or is about to. The idea of a canal that would draw water from the Mediterranean down into the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, thus helping to produce hydroelectric power, has a "distinguished ancestry" for the Zionist state, the Israelis believe. "The father of modern Zionism, Theodor Herzl, enshrined it in his visionary novel about a future Jewish state, *Altneuland*," the Jerusalem Post newspaper said in an editorial on the subject last week.

So why are the Israelis abandoning the project after several years of research work and preparations that cost them \$15m? Economic feasibility and lack of funds are two main reasons of course; but should we not read more into the decision to abandon "for now" the grandiose project?

In supporting his criticism of the plan to build the canal, which was initiated during Menachem Begin's first term in office, the Israeli state comptroller reportedly skirted the political aspects of the project. These were that the canal's planned point of origin was to be in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, which is an occupied Arab territory. Secondly, that by raising the level of the Dead Sea water, the canal would have caused great damage to Jordan's potash industry, as well as involved legal aspects of this encroachment on Arab and international rights.

The decision to shelve the Med-Dead project might have been seen as a gesture of goodwill towards peace and the Arabs by the Peres government had the real intention behind it been indeed that. Instead that government had to admit its predecessor's failure to honour pledges made to "Israel Bonds" buyers who had the impression that the project was going to be a financial success. Nothing about peace there.

The question of Jewish settlements in the West Bank may be similar to this situation soon. So is Lebanon already, Israel would never want to admit that its attitudes of hegemony against the Arabs and its colonisation policies and projects are the source of its economic ills and financial disasters. But all the same. They will have to one day and soon.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Constructive interaction

THE CABINET meeting held in Karak Saturday and the prime minister's speech at the outset of the session represent an open invitation to the public by the government to start participating in building and developing the society. The speeches by government ministers reflected the government's determination to accept this participation by citizens and carry out projects for the benefit of the public.

The objectives of the government are in line with the democratic system which the Jordanian society has been accustomed to, and opens wide scope for national interaction and real cooperation between government and people for the good of all. The participation of the public in developing the country's economic, agricultural and educational sectors requires serious efforts on both sides, and requires a rejuvenated administration that can cope with various problems and carry out the different projects which the ministers talked about in the cabinet meeting.

The citizen is required to act constructively and should not be satisfied with making complaints or presenting demands to the government. What is needed is real participation in analysing and solving the issues. The citizens can make their voices heard through the deputies in parliament, the press and municipal and village councils. But the most important thing is that the role of the public should be made to complement that of the government in all endeavours.

Al Dustour: Better late than never

IT TOOK the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) 13 years to publish a report about Israel's demolition of Arab homes and refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. But the report by itself is a clear condemnation of the Israeli occupation authorities for their brutal actions against the Palestinians and their property. UNRWA said in its report that the demolition process was part of Israel's mass revenge policy practised against the Arab population, reminiscent of South Africa's racist rulers' actions against the black population.

The UNRWA report is an indictment of Israel for its criminal actions against the Arabs and their rights. UNRWA's report conflicts with former Israeli defence minister Ariel Sharon's claims before an American court that he was not responsible for the massacres of the Palestinian people in Sabra and Shatila camp as Time magazine had reported. Sharon is trying to vindicate himself from crimes that had actually taken place while he was in power, during a period clearly referred in UNRWA's report.

Perhaps this report would bring the world to its senses and move Western nations into seriously discussing means for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. Perhaps, the UNRWA report would end disputes among Arab leaders and Palestinian groups that tend to divert the Arab public attention from the real problems.

Sawt Al Shaab: Fruitful exchange

PRIME MINISTER Ahmad Obaidat told an open cabinet session Saturday in Karak that the government will soon lay down a national programme for nationalising consumption of fuel and energy. This announcement represents an invitation to all citizens to help the government reduce the charge in the country's energy bill and so help save funds necessary for development projects.

The prime minister said that rationalising energy consumption should be accompanied by the citizens' increased efforts to grow food and ensure food security for the country. Agriculture forms the backbone of Jordan's economy, and developing arable land and increasing food production can help bolster the nation economically, politically and socially.

The prime minister's speech urged all citizens to shoulder responsibility with the government. He stressed the importance of local government and its role in helping central government carry out projects in the coming five-year plan. Democracy, which characterised the open meeting in Karak should also mark the participation of all citizens in building the nation.

Chad meeting seen as foreign policy success for Papandreou

By Bruce Clark
 Reuters

ATHENS — Andreas Papandreou's mediation between France and Libya at surprise talks on Chad has given him his most tangible foreign policy success since becoming Greece's first leftist prime minister in 1981.

That was the verdict of diplomats and political commentators from left to right on Thursday's five-hour session in Crete between Mr. Papandreou, French President Francois Mitterrand and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Col. Qadhafi said afterwards that his country and France, which have backed opposing sides in the Chad civil war, had reached an accord of principle about the African country and that Franco-Libyan relations would now improve.

Mr. Mitterrand confirmed reports that Libya had yet to complete a promised joint troop pullout from Chad but said he won a pledge that all Col. Qadhafi's troops would be leaving.

Diplomats said that as a result of his mediation at the hastily arranged session, Papandreou could now argue with greater conviction that Greece, a maverick within the NATO alliance, has become a bridge between opposing power blocs.

Mr. Papandreou, who in the past two months has made what Western eyes are controversial visits to Libya, Poland and Syria, can now expect fellow European Community leaders to listen with greater respect when he speaks on East-West and Middle East issues at next month's summit in Dublin, the diplomats added.

After returning last week from Damascus and Amman, Mr. Papandreou said he would argue in Dublin for greater diplomatic activity over the Middle East by the community.

Mr. Papandreou's links with Libya date to the early days of his Panhellenic Socialist Movement, formed in 1974 with the stated aim of moving Greece away from the West towards the radical socialism of the "Third World."

Resentment at Washington's close ties with Greece's former military junta and at Turkey's 1974 invasion of Cyprus with NATO arms, helped sweep Mr. Papandreou to power in October 1981 amidst a storm of anti-Western rhetoric.

Since then, Mr. Papandreou has kept Greece within the European Community and the North Atlantic alliance but at the same time intensified contacts with the Eastern bloc and the Arab World.

He has continued to attack what he calls the imperialist military and economic policies of the U.S. and says small states must push back the Western capitalist tide if peace is to be preserved and world's poor are to get a better deal.

Mr. Papandreou, a former economics professor in America, has made a series of radical foreign policy moves. They include: — Opposition to Western sanctions against Soviet bloc states and calls for a softer Western line towards Moscow.

— A campaign last year for a six-month delay in the installation of new U.S. missiles in Europe.

— Talks with Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia about setting up a denuclearised zone in the Balkans.

— A joint call with the leaders of India, Sweden, Argentina, Mexico and Tanzania for a world nuclear freeze.

— A tightening of traditional Greek links with the Arab World, in particular with the Palestinian movement.

Mr. Papandreou has won warm praise both from his supporters and from the Greek Communist Party for these initiatives, but conservative Greeks have worried they could alienate Western support in Greece's persistent disputes with Turkey.

Athens and Ankara both depend on U.S. military aid.

But on a flight back from Libya in September, Mr. Papandreou countered: "At this time the West needs us, not us the West."

He cited Chad, and Greece's help in June in securing access to consular officials for six Britons jailed in Libya.

Today, Western analysts who have been sceptical in the past of Mr. Papandreou's claims to be playing a major bridge-building role, said the Crete talks were a clear boost to his prestige.

In an unusual turnaround, the conservative daily Mesimvri — normally a sharp critic of Mr. Papandreou's foreign policy — carried the headline "Andreas pulled it off."

The pro-government newspaper Vima said that even without the reported Franco-Libyan accord, the very fact that Mr. Papandreou had brought Mr. Mitterrand and Col. Qadhafi together would have been a major filip for Greece and its prime Minister.



Sandinistas seek national consensus

David Gardner assesses the likely impact of Nicaragua's democratic elections, which took place early this month and reaffirmed the country's support for the Sandinistas.

MANAGUA — Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the recent Nicaraguan elections was not the result — widely predicted victory for the ruling Sandinistas — but that they took place at all. In modern times, no other revolutionary movement which has seized power by force of arms has gone on to hold serious elections.

Most observers not overtly sympathetic to the Sandinista Party, the FSLN, saw the polling process as technically orthodox and clean, within fair rules. The full range of Nicaraguan opinion, except incitement to armed opposition, was aired, whether in or outside the campaign proper. There is little doubt, moreover, that the Sandinistas retain the support of the majority of Nicaraguans.

The real problem in guaranteeing a fair election here, however, is that over the past five years, the FSLN has filled the institutional vacuum it was bequeathed to a point where party — or, more accurately, movement — and state have become near synonymous.

The army, police, neighbourhood defence committees, which sprang up during the revolution, and the television, all bear the name Sandinista and are under FSLN control.

The opposition was neither organised nor coherent enough to resist this tendency and remains feebly divided on what to do about it. This development could, for a

commentator put it, referring to the country's most staple dish of rice and beans. The crowd roared its approval. But though the nationalist hero, Gen. August Cesar Sandino, seen by all Nicaraguans as the precursor of national independence, is at the centre of the FSLN trinity, he is flanked by Marx and St. Paul, as one Sandinista writer phrased it. The mix is a potent one and has cut the ground out from underneath the Left, on the one hand, and Christian Democracy, a powerful force in the region, on the other.

Nicaragua's Christian Democrats are split into three small groups: one which has been in informal alliance with the Sandinistas, one with the Coordinadora Democratica coalition party, and one with the U.S.-backed Contras. The Left is split into two orthodox Communist and one Maoist party, with some union influence but little political projection.

The right-wing Coordinadora Democratica, regarded increasingly by the Sandinistas as an internal political front for the U.S.-backed Contras, refused to take part in the election.

It claimed it did not offer adequate democratic guarantees. Supporters of the liberal and conservative parties agreed and also did not take part.

The opposition showed no sign during the campaign that it might be able to, rally behind it anything like the breadth of support the Sandinistas enjoy. The odds facing the opposition in the short-term are fearsome. As

a result, the centre and right is dividing between the institutional option of trying to build on the space opened by these elections and the institutions they give rise to, and the confrontation option.

The conservative Catholic Church hierarchy, perhaps the most powerful internal opposition force, does not yet appear to have made up its mind.

The two traditional parties, the Independent Liberal and Conservative Democrats, have splintered already in the Coordinadora, and further split 10 days prior to the polls over whether or not to stand. But despite these divisions early results gave each of the factions that did run 11 to 12 per cent each of the vote.

The Sandinistas are acutely aware of the dangers of the opposition going underground. Partly in response, they have set up a National Dialogue of all the parties to function in tandem with the more narrowly based constituent assembly.

The war has a good deal to do with the FSLN's monopoly of state institutions. The Sandinista background is more one of a military organisation which has tended to improvise on ideology than of a hardline Leninist organisation intent on a one-party state. The war has kept armed Sandinismo in a state of almost permanent mobilisation. But the widespread belief among its leaders that the U.S. might intervene directly to topple them appears genuine and not a pretext for maintaining their lead.

Financial Times news feature.

British coal strike suffering setbacks

By Brian Cathcart
 Reuters

LONDON — After eight months of ugly riots, bitter words and hardship, Britain's coal strike appears to be crumbling slowly.

Lured by special pay bonuses and driven by disillusionment and poverty, hundreds of miners have been deserting the strike every day for two weeks, according to the static Coal Board.

That claim is denied by the miners' union, which called the walkout to fight plans to close 20 pits. But whatever the facts there is no denying the strike leaders are on the defensive.

Their problem is simple. Despite their longest-ever strike, they can hardly point to a single sign that they might win.

There have been no peace talks for weeks and the board shows no inclination to negotiate again. Power cuts, long predicted, remain a distant prospect.

Union allies show little sign of delivering on promises of "total support", and the opposition Labour Party's backing has been weakened by a public row over strike tactics.

The coal board and the right-wing Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher feel the tide is finally turning against the miners.

The board says some 7,000 men have abandoned their strike in the last fortnight, tempted by the promise that they can earn up to 1,400 sterling (\$1,765) by Christmas.

A quarter of the 180,000-strong workforce refused to join the strike from the start and some men have already returned, so the new figures took the total working to about one-third.

That means 58 of the 174 pits are turning out some coal, with national production about one-quarter of normal levels.

National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) leader Arthur Scargill dismisses the figures. But union sources say the leadership accepts privately the strike is being eroded.

The union also faces isolation on another front. Violence has marked the dispute from the start, with scuffles and stone-throwing a daily occurrence on the lines of picketing strikers trying to discourage men going back to work.

To the embarrassment of its allies, the NUM insists that the police alone are to blame.

In one widely publicised incident Norman Willis, leader of the umbrella body of British organised labour, the Trades Union Congress, was booed and jeered at a strike rally for condemning violence as alien to union traditions.

In the future that followed, opposition Labour leader Neil Kinnock backed Mr. Willis. Mr. Kinnock had earlier declined to attend a series of strike rallies on

the grounds his diary was full, a decision widely seen as distancing him from the NUM leadership.

Polls show the strike is unpopular with British voters and Mrs. Thatcher has exploited Mr. Kinnock's discomfort in backing the miners but opposing their tactics.

In a stinging parliamentary rebuke this week, she accused him of lacking "the guts" to challenge picket violence himself.

Labour sought firmer ground with an appeal to the NUM to ballot its members on the strike. This is something it had always refused to do and its answer to Labour was the same.

The union leadership decided instead to promote behind-the-scenes efforts to get new talks under way, although there seems little chance these will succeed.

In what may prove a turning point of the strike, the last peace talks broke down in acrimony on Oct. 31.

Until then Mr. Scargill had been on the attack, and a real prospect had emerged that a separate dispute involving colliery foremen would close all the mines and end all production.

But the foremen settled, the mines stayed open and the board's resolve stiffened. At the same time the board switched its public relations policy and the controversial chairman, Ian MacGregor, adopted a less prominent public role.

One further blow for the NUM was a newspaper allegation that it had held discussions about financial help with the Libyan authorities, highly unpopular in Britain since a policeman was shot dead from a window of Libya's London embassy in April.

While the miners' strength in the public debate has waned, the strike has made little apparent impact on coal supplies.

Their hopes of outright victory have been pinned from the start on power cuts. A decade ago, they helped topple Prime Minister Edward Heath by choking off coal supplies to power stations and forcing widespread blackouts.

That weapon has been blunted this time, as the power industry was ready with huge coal stocks and the minority of working miners has ensured that fresh supplies never dried up.

Coal imports have rocketed, old oil-fired power stations have been pressed back into service and new laws regulating picketing have prevented strike blockades.

Ministers insist their will be no need for power cuts this winter, and as a warmer weather returns demand will turn down and the drain on stocks will slow again.

For the moment, the government appears to hold the stronger cards, although at the present rate it will still be 1985 before even half the miners return to work.

d Nola Rae says it all with her body



By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After the first few minutes when the sense of strangeness has worn off a little, when you've got used to the idea that there is only going to be one silent person on an empty black stage, the mime of Nola Rae becomes totally absorbing. The audience at the first of three shows Rae is currently giving here in Amman at the Royal Cultural Centre, very quickly warmed to the series of characters the artist portrayed, sympathising with their frustrations, laughing at their antics and sometimes even getting involved physically with the clowning. In a show that ranges from the very subtle to pure foolery, that says so much without a single word being spoken, Rae reveals that she is not only immensely creative with a wide and diverse talent, but that she has that ability, one of the most difficult of all, to make people really laugh.

Humour has always been an important vehicle for getting serious points across, but Rae feels, with mime at least, comedy has a more integral part to play. "Mime lends itself so well to comedy that being a mime artist and not using humour would be rather like being a concert pianist and not playing Mozart."

ART REVIEW

from Greek meaning to "play all" and in those days, as the translation of the word suggests, there was nothing speechless about mime. The silent mime is a relatively recent concept, that came in with the 18th century when European Theatre was heavily censored. Fearing the influence of the theatre and the adverse propaganda it could so easily spread, the ruling powers allowed only certain actors to talk on stage, licences to speak only being granted to players who would give favourable impressions of their regimes. The rest of the cast had to rely on getting their messages across using only gestures and facial

expressions.

In this century, mime was brought to the forefront by French-born Marcel Marceau, who, as one of the first and certainly the most famous solo artists developed mime into a whole new style with its own vocabulary of gestures and movements. For the last 30 years Marceau's now classic style which involved the use of a white costume on a bare black stage and no sets or props, was the one nearly all mime artists utilised. Now, however, they are slowly breaking away from his influence and starting to develop their own styles.

Rae's style is, as she puts it, a "mixed media" which involves the use of props, sets, a lot of music, clowning and dance all of which are used to the full in her "sui-generis" show, i.e. her touring show "Upper Cuts". "Upper Cuts" opens with a comic piece about ballet — a subject close to Rae's own heart, who began her career as a dancer.

"I always hoped to be a great dancer. I wanted to Margot Fonteyne in fact I still do. I haven't given up hope," she laughed, "but I didn't have the right physical attributes and sustained many injuries. So I decided to change, but the problem was how could I use my training without using my voice."

Rae, a slim quiet almost reserved person of great charm speaks with a very soft, feminine voice not at all suitable for the stage. Mime thus seemed the perfect alternative especially as in Rae's words by "keeping her mouth shut" she could and does play everything from Lions to bureaucrats. In fact she plays masculine roles extremely convincingly.

Getting the correct training in the field was not so easy, especially in London. It was at L'Ecole Internationale de Mime Marcel Marceau in Paris that Rae finally learnt her techniques. Mime however is much more than just technique.

"To be a mime artist you have to be master of many arts and one of the reasons it is such a difficult art is that you have to create all your own material — there are no mime writers."

Drawing on her own experiences or sometimes adapting fables and stories Rae thus creates all her own programmes and after this her 20th tour sponsored by the British Council, which takes her on to Senegal and Ghana, Rae will return to England to rehearse her latest show "The Urge".

With wonderfully funny sketches like "The Conductor" and the hilarious clowning of the "Court Jester" — don't sit near the front if you fear for your sanity — "Upper Cuts" is a remarkably entertaining evening that will appeal to children over the age of 10 and adults alike.

Randa Habib's Corner

They carried colour umbrellas

WHY, HAVE you seen the multi-coloured umbrellas that were used to protect Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu from the rain last week?

Umbrellas? No rather parasols, believe me, because of their huge size. However, it is to the better since parasols would protect more our distinguished guest.

As for the colours, that is another matter. The runway of the airport looked like Deauville in summer and if it wasn't for the rain, one could easily mistake it for a sea resort. Why not, it served to change the monotonous official reception. Umbrellas striped with orange, yellow, blue, red, and green — a gay and cheerful site which added colour to television screens broadcasting the arrival of the official guest.

Anyhow, I personally found all that amusing. A pity though the officials lined to greet the guest did not carry similar umbrellas.

You might say that they should have used black umbrellas for the occasion that looked more serious. After all, it is already winter and it would only be natural that the military airport, which is used to receive official guests only, is equipped with adequate black umbrellas.

I would say I do not share this opinion and probably as long as umbrellas have to be used, let them be colourful ones. I do not understand why those who saw the umbrellas were very critical of the scene. Wherever I went, people were hilarious and I could hear them say, "Have you seen those umbrellas... ha... ha... they were so funny."

You see, I was right. At least coloured umbrellas resulted in some cheerful and amusing remarks... and I believe this is the most important thing.

Cine-Club winter season opened, is gaining momentum

By Isam Al Tal
Special to the Jordan Times

THE JORDAN Cine-Club early February opened its winter season with a condensed programme of two weekly shows followed by elaborate discussion of the content and cinematic techniques of the shown films. Cine-Club president Hassan Abu Ghanimeh told the Jordan Times.

In addition to specially-selected films for club audience, early shows of films seen by the Amman ordinary public are being given for debate. Mr. Abu Ghanimeh said, "This helps us assess the status quo situation regarding artistic standards and public taste, a condition of prime necessity for alleviating general viewing standards in Jordan. He pointed out.

Speaking of last Saturday's show of "The Man Who Loved Women" — director American Black Edwards — the Cine-Club president expressed concern over the cutting off by the censor of some essential scenes in the film without due consideration to the fact that they violate no public taste and are necessary for establishing the dramatic sequence in the film and arriving at subtle conclusions with regard to its story-line.

This is a cine-club audience, Hassan said, and this is the first time such scenes are dealt with "classically", he mumbled. The Man Who Loved Women show drew quite a good audience and the discussion that followed concentrated on the analysis of the leading character, a frustrated gifted sculptor who to no effect seeks satisfaction through, endlessly approaching women he meets. His emotional frustration is matched by a parallel one crippling his creative abilities as an artist. The role, exquisitely performed by Burt

Reynolds, is a complicated one that painstakingly interacted with the unusual performance of Julie Andrews as the psycho-analyst. The combination of the two gave their out-of-context love story a special flavour, adding to the touch of tragic-comedy the picture presents.

Asked if the alternate shows at the Rainbow Theatre on Saturdays and the Opera Theatre on Mondays do not affect the regularity of attendance by club members and guests, the club president stressed that there is an established audience of club members and their friends, who are steadily increasing, besides cinema fans. "We mean to popularise good cinema against a background of cheap and pointless culture cinematic that has been reared for years and years," the man who can give you answers to questions about almost any film said.

Monday's show (today), Hassan said, is a mockery of the long established Tarzan legend, with its colonialist approach to the "white man's" European — superiority and humanitarianism.

The film, Greystoke — The Legend of Tarzan Lord of Apes, by director Hugh Hudson, brings the jungle man to Edwardian London and faces him with the dilemma of receiving a "civilised" citizenship or returning to the jungle and its primitive loyalties of the ape. Lost between savage attempts at taming his primitively noble nature and the yearning for the clean jungle of no "civilised" society whims, Hudson's Tarzan is no ordinary-adventure one that is only meant to amuse.

We are trying to build, slowly but enthusiastically, a film audience of a broad spectrum that confronts the industry with a critical taste, Hassan Abu Ghanimeh concludes.

Rediscovered Japanese silent films enjoy revival

By Raymond Gijzen
Reuters

FRANKFURT — Ten Japanese silent movies from the 1920s and 1930s, forgotten and gathering dust for some 20 years in a private collection, are now enjoying a second world premiere here.

The painstakingly-restored films had lain in the Tokyo archives of Shunsui Matsuda, Japan's largest private film collection, but all are now on show for the first time outside the country as part of a major festival here this month featuring 102 Japanese films.

Mr. Matsuda, in Frankfurt for the opening night of the festival, told Reuters: "Japanese directors

of the 1930s were young and politically committed... but by the 1950s the commercial aspect had gained the upper hand."

The 10 silent movies are rated by Dieter Reiffarth, director of the communal cinema which is organising the festival, as prime examples of the early Japanese feature film. Once tracked down, it was a simple matter to persuade Mr. Matsuda to release the films for a run, he said.

Before they could be shown on modern equipment, fragments of the originals had to be pieced together by Mr. Matsuda, then refilmed on modern celluloid. The original "nitrate celluloid" runs the risk of bursting into flames with modern projectors.

Although from the silent heyday, some of the films are accompanied by original recordings of performances by "benshis", narrators hired by Japanese cinemas in the 1920s and 1930s to explain the pictures. With the advent of talking pictures as the 1930s progressed, the benshis one by one lost their jobs.

But Mr. Matsuda, who is in his 60s and claims to be Japan's last active benshi, revived the custom on the opening night here with a Japanese commentary on the 1930s film "Ono Ga Tsumi" (own fault), a moral tale of class differences centring on an illegitimate child.

The rest of the 102 films have been loaned by Tokyo's National

Museum of Modern Art and other institutes in Japan and Western Europe.

Most of the 10 silents belong to the "samurai" genre, telling tales of Japan's fearsome ancient warriors, equivalent to Europe's medieval knights.

The oldest of the films, Shozo Makino's "Chushingura" (story of loyal followers), was produced in either 1913 or 1917 and is based on an 18th century Japanese play relating the fate of Samurai following their lord to death.

But it was not until 1951 that another samurai film, Akira Kurosawa's "Rashomon", sparked international acclaim for Japan's cinema by winning the Grand Prix

at the Venice Film Festival.

"Rashomon" is not included in the current festival, but some of the director's other samurai films are, notably "Shichinin No Samura" (seven samurai) from 1954 and the highly acclaimed "Kagemusha" (shadow of a warrior) made in 1980.

The films enjoyed a heyday before World War II, but after being banned briefly by Japan's U.S. administration immediately afterwards, never regained their former stature. Akira Shimizu, director of Japan's Kawakita Memorial Film Institute said.

As in Europe, the Japanese cinema has suffered at the hands of television over the last two dec-

ades, Mr. Shimizu told Reuters, with the Japanese now visiting the cinema on average just once a year compared with once a month in 1958.

But this decline has in turn reduced the dominance of large producers on the set and young directors are beginning once again to take more freedom to explore political themes of their own choice and experiment, Mr. Shimizu said.

Works by young directors here include early films of Nagisa Oshima, who later gained international recognition for his "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence" starring rock star David Bowie.

The rise and rise of Italian designer Luciano Soprani

Alan Friedman describes the pursuit of success by Luciano Soprani, a 38-year-old small businessman who is one of Italy's fastest rising fashion designers.

MILAN — "I am feeling very restless today," says Luciano Soprani, pacing about his elegant office in the heart of Milan's fashion district. The 38-year-old designer, who is one of Italy's fastest rising fashion stars, threw open the windows and sat down to light the first of many Marlboros he would smoke in the course of an hour.

Mr. Soprani, the son of a wealthy landowner in the Emilia Romagna region of northern central Italy, is a small businessman with reasons to be both proud and nervous.

On the one hand sales of his men's and women's fashion lines have jumped to an annual turnover of L28 billion (\$15 million). Boutiques bearing his name — but not owned by him — are scheduled to open in Tokyo, New York, Dallas and Beverly Hills. The new Milan boutique, which opened in September, sold out three months of stock worth L200

million (\$106,000) in its first week.

But the ethereal Soprani ("I don't like finance") admits that he has problems: his staff of four executives and 12 clerical assistants is insufficient and he needs a marketing director. His lack of control over distribution and marketing is worrying and his reliance upon one major clothing manufacturer for much of his production needs to be reduced. He needs to earn more than just consulting fees and royalties on the sale of his lines.

Mr. Soprani was originally meant to be a farmer. His parents, who are in the dairy farming business, sent him to agricultural school in the hopes that he would take over the family holdings. "They have only just forgiven me for abandoning my heritage," explains a smiling Soprani, only half-joking.

At the age of 20 he decided that he preferred to design clothing

and worked for 10 years as an assistant designer not far from his birthplace. Then, in 1976, as the Italian fashions of Versace, Kriszta Armani and others were undergoing a period of acceptance internationally, he came to Milan.

Until 1980, Mr. Soprani designed for others, for Basile, Helmy and lesser names. He also designed for Gucci. Then, following in the footsteps of his elders in Milanese fashion, he decided to launch his own line in the Spring of 1980. Production was and is contracted to Basile, which has Mr. Soprani on contract until 1986. Mr. Soprani's royalties on sales of his lines amount to only around 10 per cent.

His first women's collection in 1980 produced L3 billion (\$1.6 million) of sales to American and other foreign buyers. This was a respectable showing for a man who employed only two assistants at the time and worked from a studio in his apartment.

The Soprani line was started with an investment of L750 million which came from Mr. Sop-

rani's partner, Dilio Ortigoza, a Venezuelan. As Mr. Soprani puts it: "If you have a good partner you don't need to think about finance."

Now, Mr. Soprani has a steadily growing reputation, two sets of offices in central Milan and a boutique which sells his lines retail, four collections a year (two women's and two men's) and plans for ambitious expansion. The problem is his apparent lack of a firm grip on the management of his activities.

This year Mr. Soprani's turnover from women's lines will be around L20 billion. His men's collection of classically tailored English-style clothes should bring in nearly L3 billion of sales. Accessories (ties, hats, umbrellas) will account for a further L5 billion of turnover. There are plans for Soprani sunglasses, perfumes and even furniture coverings.

Kashiyama, the Japanese trading group, opened the Milan boutique under the Soprani name, largely because the company

wants to import Soprani lines into Japan and open a Tokyo boutique next year. Mr. Soprani says, Kashiyama will probably purchase around \$1 million of his fashions next year for the Japanese market.

Likewise, an American investor is financing boutiques in the States, which Mr. Soprani says will open in Beverly Hills next February, in Dallas next summer and in New York in early 1986. But at present Mr. Soprani does not own the boutiques and gets only 10 per cent royalty on sales by the manufacturer, Basile.

The value of the shops lies in promoting the Soprani name around the world. They are not franchised: Soprani is paid nothing for the use of his name.

This year the net profit of Soprani's business is likely to be around L700 million (\$372,000). This is after deducting costs and taxes from the L5 billion expected from royalties and consultancy fees in respect of his work for other designers. Overheads are budgeted at L1.6 billion and

advertising/publicity will cost L1.2 billion. Soprani says he pays 50 per cent in taxes, which is high for Italy.

Mr. Soprani says he has no net indebtedness, but points out that his company's cash balance of around L800 million (equal to around one year's net income) tends to be dipped into quite frequently for operating expenses.

Turning from finance to clothes, a glow comes over his face. "My clothes are not just to be worn at parties or balls. They are for the modern woman."

But the "modern woman" who buys Soprani fashion can pay up to \$3,000 for an evening gown or \$200 for a blouse. The prices are "outrageously expensive," says Soprani with a devilish grin. But there is no lack of customers.

If only Luciano Soprani could take more control of his spreading interests — which will take time — then he could lay claim to a larger part of Soprani receipts. — Financial Times news feature.

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Lendl too powerful for Jarryd

ANTWERP, Belgium (R) — Ivan Lendl picked up \$200,000 and his second major tennis title in a week with an easy 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 victory over Anders Jarryd of Sweden in the final of the European Champions' Championship here Sunday.

The Czechoslovak, winner last Sunday of the London Grand Prix tournament, was far too powerful for Jarryd, who showed signs of tiredness after his bruising three-hour semifinal against Ramesh Krishnan of India Saturday night.

"He was playing very well," Jarryd said after the match, adding that he was most disappointed by the margin of defeat. "Maybe even if I had played normally I would have lost anyway."

Lendl, who won the first tournament here in 1982, said he had been determined not to allow Jarryd to repeat his shock win in Sydney earlier this year.

"In Sydney he caught me by surprise with his tactics, but this time I was ready for it. He must have been a little bit surprised."

The win proved once again that with American John McEnroe out of the way Lendl is virtually unstoppable. McEnroe pulled out of the London and Antwerp events after receiving a 21-day suspension for misbehavior during his Scandinavian Open semifinal

against Jarryd.

Lendl now needs to win here just once more to take home the trophy, a diamond-encrusted gold tennis racket worth about \$700,000.

The Antwerp Diamonds' Cup, as it is known, is awarded to the player who wins the championship three times in five consecutive years.

"They won't get it back again," Lendl said.

Lendl started the final confidently, forcing the Swede to duce in his first service game and breaking him in his second.

Jarryd clung to his third serve to pull back to 3-2 down but was broken again in the seventh game and gained only one point in the eighth before Lendl took the first set.

After a disastrous start in the second, Jarryd produced two superb crosscourt shots to win the third game on his serve, but it was to be the only obstacle on Lendl's relentless march.

Jarryd's desperate hopes of a

comeback were almost realised when he came close to breaking his opponent's serve in the third game of the third set and produced a rare ace in the next to take his first love game.

But Lendl, leading 3-1, put his lapse of concentration behind him and, although Jarryd held serve to pull back to 2-4, a love game and a final break gave Lendl the championship.

Moreno triumphs, Lauda forced out

MELBOURNE (R) — Brazilian Roberto Moreno won the Australian Grand Prix motor race here Sunday for the second successive year. He said later he hoped to compete in Formula One events next season.

He finished 30 seconds ahead of Finland's 1982 world champion Keke Rosberg, with Italian driver Andrea de Cesaris another 20 seconds behind in third place.

The 100-lap race lost some of its interest when Formula One world champion Niki Lauda of Austria was forced out on the 41st lap after the car of Australian driver Terry Ryan spun in front of him. Ryan had collided with Rosberg moments before.

Lauda was in fourth place and quickly making up ground on the leaders when the incident occurred.

Platini early goal not enough to save Juventus

ROME (R) — Mighty Juventus crashed to their second successive defeat, while Napoli's Argentine star Diego Maradona was sent off on a day of drama in the Italian soccer league Sunday.

The downfall of defending champions Juventus came at the hands of city rivals Torino, who snatched a 2-1 away win thanks to a last-minute goal by Aldo Serena.

Juventus looked in control when Michel Platini put them ahead on the quarter hour in front of a near capacity crowd. But Torino hit back through Giovanni Francini three minutes after the interval and Serena scored the winner with 30 seconds to spare after Brazilian team-mate Junior's free kick bounced off a barrier of Juventus players.

Juventus, humiliated 4-0 last Sunday by Inter Milan, dropped to 11th place in the 16-team first division with eight points from nine games.

Serena's goal made him one of three joint leading goalscorers and consolidated his team's number two position in the league table with 14 points — one behind Verona.

There was no hint of the trouble to come for Maradona as Napoli

took a ninth minute lead at Ascoli when Domenico Penzo pushed in to seize Maradona's pass and give goalkeeper Corti no chance.

Vincenzi levelled the score in the second half which deteriorated into an ill-tempered brawl, and in the 75th minute referee Ciulli sent off Maradona and Ascoli's Enrico Nicolini.

Roma showed a little of last season's form to beat Fiorentina 2-1 for their first league win.

Maurizio Iorio scored first for Roma from the penalty spot after Claudio Gentile had floored Giovanni Giannini.

Giannini got Roma's second just before halftime when he connected with a perfect cross by the untiring Bruno Conti. Fiorentina's

reply was a penalty when goalkeeper Franco Tancredi tripped Gabriele Oriali. Socrates converting.

Inter Milan moved up to third place with a 1-0 win over Udinese. Mandorlini's goalbound shot in the third minute was deflected into the goal by an Udinese defender.

AC Milan's 0-0 draw at Avellino showed they may find goals hard to come by without England's injured striker Mark Hateley.

Leaders Verona were held to a goalless draw at home by Sampdoria — a good result for the Genoa team who remain nicely poised in fourth spot.

East German wins Tokyo women's marathon

TOKYO (R) — East Germany's top runner, Katrin Dörrie, won the Tokyo international women's marathon in two hours 33 minutes 23 seconds Sunday.

The 23-year-old Dörrie took the lead from the 30-km (18-mile) point and defeated Japan's Eriko

Asai, 25, by about 100 metres.

The tiny Asai, the only runner to keep up with Dörrie from the 25-km point, placed second in 2:33:43, followed by Birgit Weibold of East Germany in 2:35:17.

Coach tips Kuwait to retain Asian title

KUWAIT (R) — The coach of Asia's reigning national soccer champions, Kuwait, has tipped his side to retain their title in next month's Asia Cup tournament in Singapore.

"I don't see any possibility of their failure in Singapore," the Kuwait Times Sunday quoted Antonio Lopes dos Santos as saying of his team's chances in keeping the trophy they won last year.

The Brazilian coach rated the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the competition's dark horses. "If they create some upsets, I would not be surprised," he remarked.

The UAE enjoyed the advantage of what he called one of the

best coaches around in Carlos Alberto Pereira, a former coach of Brazil's national side and Kuwait's previous coach.

Lopes, who succeeded Carlos Alberto in June last year after coaching Brazil's Vasco de Gama club to a national championship title in 1982, said Iran was among the leading teams going to Singapore.

China was also good, he said, while Saudi Arabia had shown marked improvement recently.

Kuwait's squad flies to Indonesia Monday for a one-week training camp in final preparation for the tournament.

Liverpool sustains revival

LONDON (R) — English soccer league champions Liverpool continued their revival with a 2-0 win away to Newcastle in a televised match Sunday.

The victory ended Newcastle's run of eight league games without defeat and lifted Liverpool from 14th to 10th place in the 22-team first division.

Steve Nicol put Liverpool ahead midway through the first half in front of a 28,000 crowd and John Wark made matters worse with a goal a minute from time.

Sunday's win puts them 11 points behind city rivals and leaders Everton and eight behind second-placed Manchester United.

Zola Budd tops sports poll

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African-born runner Zola Budd, who took British citizenship to compete in the Olympics, Saturday night became the first white to win the sports Hero of the Year award — voted for by blacks.

\$1,700 which will be paid into trust fund.

The competition, sponsored by two television channels and magazine all aimed at blacks and white manufacturers, attracted over 33,000 votes.

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IEA celebrates 10th anniversary

PARIS (R) — The Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), set up by industrial countries after the 1973 oil crisis to secure more reliable energy supplies, celebrates its 10th anniversary Sunday with the international market awash with oil and consumers in an apparently very strong position.

Executive Director Helga Steeg warned, however, that the plentiful supplies and low spot prices might be merely a short-term phenomenon and that industrial countries were in danger of drifting back to dependence on Middle East oil.

Ms. Steeg told Reuters in an interview here that oil resources in the IEA's member countries, which comprise 21 industrial non-communist nations, would decline towards the end of this decade and the beginning of the next.

"That would definitely mean that the demand for oil imports would increase if we do not continue with our efforts on energy conservation and efficiency, research and development and co-operation in developing alternative sources of energy," she said.

Oil's share of the industrial world's energy consumption has fallen to 43 per cent from 51 per cent 10 years ago and the IEA

believes that, with radical alternative energy policies, it can be cut to 30 per cent by the end of the century.

It would like to see the share taken by coal raised to around 30 per cent, natural gas to 17 per cent, nuclear energy to 12 per cent and hydro and other renewable energy sources to 10 per cent.

Ms. Steeg acknowledged that a policy encouraging the use of nuclear fuel and coal faced opposition from environmental groups in many countries but said that the technology existed to overcome environmental problems and that diversification should be an important element in the West's energy strategy.

Referring to the damage to the world economy caused by the 160 per cent rise in oil prices in 1979 and 1980 — the result of the Iranian revolution and the Iran-Iraq war — she said that "the overall goal certainly is not to let it happen again".

In 1979 the industrialised countries lacked the means to calm the market as their governments did not control enough stocks to make an impact. Now the situation has changed considerably.

Governments in the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

(OECD), which includes IEA member countries plus France, Finland and Iceland, held only four days of stocks in July 1979 although company-held stocks, to which governments had varying degrees of access, amounted to a further 76 days.

Government-owned stocks had more than quadrupled in July this year to 18 days' supply while company-owned stocks had edged up slightly to 79 days.

An important IEA function is to monitor on a monthly basis oil supply, demand and stocks both in its member countries and worldwide to detect any sign of a shortage.

Under an emergency sharing system instituted at its foundation oil would be shared if one or more members suffered a drop of seven per cent or more in their normal supply.

The IEA's governing board, however, recognising the need for a more flexible response, agreed in July that even with a smaller shortfall response, agreed in July that even with a smaller shortfall oil stocks, particularly government-owned ones, should be used early in a potential supply crisis if this was judged necessary to prevent panic buying.

To ensure sufficient stocks to stave off most crises, the IEA's

Iran is trying to boost oil exports by offering price cuts, traders say

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran appears to have launched a big effort to boost crude oil exports, according to diplomatic, oil and shipping sources.

After three months in which Iran refused to offer large discounts on official prices for its crude, oil traders in London, Tokyo and New York now say it is trying to stimulate sales by offering price cuts on its light crude of up to \$2 a barrel and possibly more.

With a month-long lull in Iraqi attacks on ships using Iranian ports, the number of tankers calling at the main Iranian oil terminal of Kharg island has risen significantly and oil industry sources report a large number of Iranian cargoes are now starting to reach the world oil market.

In Tehran, diplomats told Reuters a dozen tankers were chartered to load oil at Kharg in early November and said Iran appears to be trying to counter a drop in foreign exchange reserves, which may have reached levels it regards as unacceptably low.

Iran agreed to a temporary 100,000 barrels per day (b/d) cut in its 2.4 million b/d quota at last month's Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil minister's meeting in Geneva.

The reduction was part of a temporary cut in the 13-member organisation's overall output ceiling to 16 million b/d from 17.5 million designed to prop up oil prices.

Oil industry sources say the Iranian cut was widely regarded as symbolic because since August its output has been running at 1.75 million b/d or less, and exports at a maximum one million b/d. The increases in exports would not necessarily involve a breach of its new quota, they said.

Without big price discounts, Iran finds it difficult to sell its oil because of the high insurance premiums and freight rates charged on ships calling at its ports — a result of Iraqi attacks on tankers in the four-year-old Gulf war.

Even though there have been no confirmed Iraqi air attacks on shipping since Oct. 15, when the 108,721-ton Iranian tanker Sivas was hit and set on fire near Kharg, high freight and insurance rates remain in force.

Tehran diplomats said the trigger for Iran's oil sales drive may be a fall in hard currency reserves, which they estimated could have

dropped as low as \$4 billion in liquid assets.

This, they said, is just \$500 million above what Iran considers a danger level — enough to cover three months' imports.

They said Iran may have allowed oil exports to fall in the apparent hope of a recovery in world demand this winter and higher prices.

"It appears now, however, that Iran is no longer hoping for prices to rise and is laying plans to get its oil out quickly," one Western diplomat said.

Some oil and shipping sources said Iran's oil exports had been hampered by an Iraqi attack on Kharg in late June, when the Greek supertanker Alexander the Great was irreparably damaged and the big sea island jetty put out of action.

With repair work only recently completed, the country may have been physically incapable of exporting its full OPEC quota, these sources said.

weak world shipping market, battered 12 bulk carriers for \$100 million worth of Iranian oil, the sources said.

They did not know when the oil would be delivered.

According to oil industry sources the most worrying feature of the Iranian move is not the extra oil now finding its way to the world oil market, but the willingness of another OPEC country to discount oil prices.

The official price of Iran's light crude fixed in March 1983 is \$28 a barrel, while its medium/heavy crude sells officially for \$27.10, unchanged since October 1983.

Nigeria's decision to cut prices last month to match price cuts by North Sea producers triggered last month's emergency OPEC meeting.

Meanwhile, Nigerian leader Major General Mohammad Buhari was quoted Sunday as saying his country hopes to raise its oil price by the year end.

High noon approaches for GATT

GENEVA — Ten years ago, in a desperate attempt to prevent the collapse of the Western textiles and clothing industries, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) agreed to bend its rules and allow a short-term measure of protectionism.

The intention, with the creation of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), was to give Europe and America time to reorganise their industries against a tidal wave of cheap socks, shirts, shirts, yams and fibres coming from countries such as Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan.

The short term inevitably turned into the medium term as job losses mounted and as Hong Kong and South Korea were joined by even cheaper producing countries such as Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Now, even though the worst of the recession is over, the medium term threatens to turn into the long term following the loss of over 1.5 million jobs in Europe in the decade of the MFA, a loss which, of course, reflects productivity improvements as well as imports.

Trade representatives from more than 50 countries are currently enmeshed in an agonising and difficult debate at GATT's sombre headquarters on the shore of Lake Geneva on how to prevent this.

They have been given until next July to produce a report on how the MFA has worked over the last decade and what should follow it when it expires in July 1986.

Mr. Arthur Dunkel, director-general of GATT, already has before him two vital documents.

One, from the Textile Surveillance Body, the GATT group that monitors the MFA, claims that little or no headway has been

made in the objectives of achieving the reduction of barriers and the progressive liberalisation of world trade.

The other, from GATT's economic secretariat, all but concluded in a report entitled "Textiles and Clothing in the World Economy", that the MFA had been a mistake.

Mr. Dunkel is only too aware that GATT's function is to promote world trade, not regulate it, and he is being extremely cautious about when it might be possible to put a stop to the MFA.

He has to reconcile differences between the supplier nations, which want an immediate end to the MFA, and Western industrial interests who want it to continue after July 1986.

Mr. Dunkel accepts the main premise of the economic report — that other Western industries, such as electronics, television, steel, shipbuilding, cars, have all had to face the same problem of cheaper products from the newly industrialised low-cost suppliers and have managed to do it without erecting barriers. There was — or, to be more precise, ought to be — nothing special about textiles and clothing.

Mr. Philippe Leclercq, president of Comitextil, the European organisation of textile producers, said: "It is better to have order in international trade than disorder. We are convinced that a continuing regime is essential and that there is no realistic alternative to MFA."

In a report, backed by AEIH, the European clothing body, Comitextil claimed that the MFA had actually brought about an expansion of trade and that any return to the general rules of GATT would be no answer.

Comitextil pointed out that clothing sent to Pakistan has to climb over a 192 per cent tariff. To get into Egypt it has to go over a 145 per cent hurdle. Europe may impose quotas on goods from these and other countries but its tariff barrier is on average 13.5 per cent.

The suppliers dispute this. They brandish Textiles and Clothing in the World Economy as their bible and want an immediate return to free trade, operating under GATT rules, from Aug. 1, 1986.

If they win the argument in GATT they would get unfettered access to Western markets again. But they would be under no obligation to dismantle their tariff barriers since these are imposed for balance of payments reasons and so far permissible under GATT rules.

Most of the low-cost countries privately concede that the complete abolition of the MFA on July 31, 1986 is simply not feasible.

If the West were to give an undertaking that any extension of the MFA after July 1986 would be the last such extension and that its provisions would be constantly and consistently observed, most would accept one more period of grace.

But the question is: How long would they accept? And, a subsidiary question: "What would they demand of the West in return?"

Hopes of finding some common ground have, unfortunately, been made much more difficult by the intransigence of the Americans this year.

Under considerable pressure from the very strong textile lobby in Washington, President Reagan has tightened the screw on imports from many Far Eastern countries

by reviewing already agreed levels of imports. This has greatly soured the atmosphere in Geneva.

The suppliers feel badly treated. The U.S. had "abused the consultative mechanism" according to Sr. Sergio Delgado, the Mexican delegate in Geneva.

Even the European Community (EC) found itself in the Third World camp when the U.S. actions were condemned by a massive 50-1 vote.

Despite Washington muddying the waters, many delegates in Geneva feel that a final extension of the MFA of between six and 10 years could be acceptable.

An important aim for them is to avoid being placed in a position where the negotiations preceding the end take place in a U.S. presidential election year. An MFA that ends in 1988, 1992 or 1996 has therefore to be avoided at all costs.

Mr. Dunkel is aware that there are wider issues. "The outcome of the reconsideration of the MFA will have implications that go far beyond the textiles and clothing field," he said.

The case for freer trade has been given powerful support at the highest level. When GATT ministers called, in 1982, for a report on the workings of the MFA — a report that is now being drawn up — the clear assumption was that trade liberalisation was a good thing in itself.

It is not a sentiment every industrialist in the West would endorse. Nor would every supplier who has profited from the quota systems that have proliferated in the Third World as a consequence of the MFA. But it is one both sides will soon have to accept — Financial Times news feature.

Reagan, aides seek key to deficit puzzle

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan and his aides are seeking to piece together a deficit reduction strategy to stem a tide of red ink that seems to grow larger each day.

Joined by news that the government budget deficit may reach a record \$210 billion in the financial year that began in October and by warnings that it could go still higher if the economic slowdown persists, Mr. Reagan has ordered his staff to have some proposals ready for decision before the end of this month.

During his successful reelection campaign, Mr. Reagan repeatedly said deficits could be wiped out by spending cuts and extra revenues from continued economic expansion.

Mr. Reagan's aides are now wrestling with a variety of spending restraint schemes and are known to be concentrating on government and military programmes, health care for the aged, and farm price subsidies.

Military spending is virtually off limits, however.

They need \$40 billion in cuts to offset the deterioration in the deficit since an August forecast projected a budget imbalance of \$172 billion.

The political makeup of Congress suggests their plans will face tough going.

A similar fight is likely in the Senate, which is almost evenly split between the two parties.

Weak economic growth has already helped to drive administration deficit projections up from the \$172 billion forecast and major economic indicators released in the past week suggest a rebound is not at hand.

Industrial production, an important indicator of future economic trends, was unchanged in October after falling sharply the month before and is 0.3 per cent below July's level.

Two key measures of consumer sentiment, retail sales and consumer credit, were also weak, with retail sales falling in October.

The explosion in the deficits makes it less likely the Federal Reserve Bank, (Fed) the U.S. central bank, will pump enough money into the economy to allow economic expansion at the four per cent rate targeted by the administration.

"We think overly tight money policy contributed to the slowdown in growth," a top economic official told Reuters.

The Fed has kept a tight rein on money supply growth in order to restrict inflation. It has largely succeeded in that goal, but fears a new acceleration in price increases if the deficits are not brought under control.

Administration economists are increasingly fearful that continued monetary restraint by the Fed will stop them short of their economic growth goal and push deficits still higher.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOV. 19, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day to forget past mistakes where other persons are concerned and to seek out those persons who are willing to coordinate their efforts with yours and come to an agreement.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Steer clear of some higher-up who is too demanding, and be with new and interesting contacts who have fine ideas for the future.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Precision and neatness in your work should be paramount today so that you can make the greatest progress. Avoid a jealous person.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Put into action that particular talent that is yours and get fine results. Come to a true understanding with your mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Although a home tie has different views from your own, reach a point of understanding. Listen carefully.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) An ally could have a fine new plan that should be listened to since it is apt to have great merit. Be more willing to let go of the past.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) See what a progressive advisor has to suggest so that you can get out of that impasse in monetary matters. Cut down on expenses.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Pursue personal aims and put aside practical affairs for awhile. Let your friendships include the influential.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make that unusual plan of activity that can gain you your aims, but keep it confidential for right results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Think of companions with whom you have the most fun and plan to be with them more often in the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Contact a clever bigwig who can help you to improve your status in the community in which you reside.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study those activities you want to get into in the near future that can help you to expand and study all the data possible.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Recall something that has proved pleasant in the past and use it again with your mate and find greater happiness together.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will possess a warm and kind nature so slant the education along lines that are humanitarian and pretty much out of the norm of regular scholastic studies. One to whom a family unit is very important and will be most romantic and understanding with the mate.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

"Would you like some hot milk to help you sleep, or would you rather look at the phone bill and pass out cold?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAMEG

UVESA

KEBDEC

YUPERN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: HER

Yesterday's Jumbles: CARGO KHAKI OUTLET MOTION
Answer: What that bakery tycoon was — ONE TOUGH COOKIE

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

THE Daily Crossword by J. H. Hales

ACROSS

- Comedienne
- Madeline
- Son of Prim
- Margaret
- Indian
- Chemical compound
- Ready money
- Cache
- Welsh town
- Prattling or Graham
- Contemporary
- Sales
- Found at Masabi
- Tulip tree
- Matted hair
- Apartment calls: abbr.
- Moses' brother
- Vichyssoise or bisque
- Fiery
- Be excessively formal
- whale (trough)
- Diving birds
- Gay —
- Stumble
- Jason's ship
- Scars
- Gaelic John
- semper
- tyranny
- Be a social leader
- Behind-the-scenes person
- What person
- Warrior of Chan
- Illms
- Swiss peak
- Punta del —
- What person
- Warrior of Chan
- Illms
- Egg —
- Not current
- Moon: Lat.
- Surower
- Cheney of films
- Extremely
- Impressive
- Flight verdicts
- Calendar abbr.
- Painter Claude
- Eye affliction
- Explosive
- Wicker visitor
- Shore bird
- "Bonanza" name
- QED word
- Bua money
- 55 AH
- Musical work
- "Peter Pan" role
- Excavate
- Gr. letter

DOWN

- Flight verdicts
- Alutian
- outpost
- Croquet wicket
- "Eye of — and toe of frog"
- Churchman
- Palette choices
- Issect
- Explosive
- Clasp-titting
- Sweep
- Parpid
- Fr. month
- Bua money
- 55 AH
- Musical work
- "Peter Pan" role
- Excavate
- Gr. letter

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. LILLY, 2. LILLY, 3. LILLY, 4. LILLY, 5. LILLY, 6. LILLY, 7. LILLY, 8. LILLY, 9. LILLY, 10. LILLY, 11. LILLY, 12. LILLY, 13. LILLY, 14. LILLY, 15. LILLY, 16. LILLY, 17. LILLY, 18. LILLY, 19. LILLY, 20. LILLY, 21. LILLY, 22. LILLY, 23. LILLY, 24. LILLY, 25. LILLY, 26. LILLY, 27. LILLY, 28. LILLY, 29. LILLY, 30. LILLY, 31. LILLY, 32. LILLY, 33. LILLY, 34. LILLY, 35. LILLY, 36. LILLY, 37. LILLY, 38. LILLY, 39. LILLY, 40. LILLY, 41. LILLY, 42. LILLY, 43. LILLY, 44. LILLY, 45. LILLY, 46. LILLY, 47. LILLY, 48. LILLY, 49. LILLY, 50. LILLY, 51. LILLY, 52. LILLY, 53. LILLY, 54. LILLY, 55. LILLY, 56. LILLY, 57. LILLY, 58. LILLY, 59. LILLY, 60. LILLY, 61. LILLY, 62. LILLY, 63. LILLY, 64. LILLY, 65. LILLY, 66. LILLY, 67. LILLY, 68. LILLY, 69. LILLY, 70. LILLY, 71. LILLY, 72. LILLY, 73. LILLY, 74. LILLY, 75. LILLY, 76. LILLY, 77. LILLY, 78. LILLY, 79. LILLY, 80. LILLY, 81. LILLY, 82. LILLY, 83. LILLY, 84. LILLY, 85. LILLY, 86. LILLY, 87. LILLY, 88. LILLY, 89. LILLY, 90. LILLY, 91. LILLY, 92. LILLY, 93. LILLY, 94. LILLY, 95. LILLY, 96. LILLY, 97. LILLY, 98. LILLY, 99. LILLY, 100. LILLY, 101. LILLY, 102. LILLY, 103. LILLY, 104. LILLY, 105. LILLY, 106. LILLY, 107. LILLY, 108. LILLY, 109. LILLY, 110. LILLY, 111. LILLY, 112. LILLY, 113. LILLY, 114. LILLY, 115. LILLY, 116. LILLY, 117. LILLY, 118. LILLY, 119. LILLY, 120. LILLY, 121. LILLY, 122. LILLY, 123. LILLY, 124. LILLY, 125. LILLY, 126. LILLY, 127. LILLY, 128. LILLY, 129. LILLY, 130. LILLY, 131. LILLY, 132. LILLY, 133. LILLY, 134. LILLY, 135. LILLY, 136. LILLY, 137. LILLY, 138. LILLY, 139. LILLY, 140. LILLY, 141. LILLY, 142. LILLY, 143. LILLY, 144. LILLY, 145. LILLY, 146. LILLY, 147. LILLY, 148. LILLY, 149. LILLY, 150. LILLY, 151. LILLY, 152. LILLY, 153. LILLY, 154. LILLY, 155. LILLY, 156. LILLY, 157. LILLY, 158. LILLY, 159. LILLY, 160. LILLY, 161. LILLY, 162. LILLY, 163. LILLY, 164. LILLY, 165. LILLY, 166. LILLY, 167. LILLY, 168. LILLY, 169. LILLY, 170. LILLY, 171. LILLY, 172. LILLY, 173. LILLY, 174. LILLY, 175. LILLY, 176. LILLY, 177. LILLY, 178. LILLY, 179. LILLY, 180. LILLY, 181. LILLY, 182. LILLY, 183. LILLY, 184. LILLY, 185. LILLY, 186. LILLY, 187. LILLY, 188. LILLY, 189. LILLY, 190. LILLY, 191. LILLY, 192. LILLY, 193. LILLY, 194. LILLY, 195. LILLY, 196. LILLY, 197. LILLY, 198. LILLY, 199. LILLY, 200. LILLY, 201. LILLY, 202. LILLY, 203. LILLY, 204. LILLY, 205. LILLY, 206. LILLY, 207. LILLY, 208. LILLY, 209. LILLY, 210. LILLY, 211. LILLY, 212. LILLY, 213. LILLY, 214. LILLY, 215. LILLY, 216. LILLY, 217. LILLY, 218. LILLY, 219. LILLY, 220. LILLY, 221. LILLY, 222. LILLY, 223. LILLY, 224. LILLY, 225. LILLY, 226. LILLY, 227. LILLY, 228. LILLY, 229. LILLY, 230. LILLY, 231. LILLY, 232. LILLY, 233. LILLY, 234. LILLY, 235. LILLY, 236. LILLY, 237. LILLY, 238. LILLY, 239. LILLY, 240. LILLY, 241. LILLY, 242. LILLY, 243. LILLY, 244. LILLY, 245. LILLY, 246. LILLY, 247. LILLY, 248. LILLY, 249. LILLY, 250. LILLY, 251. LILLY, 252. LILLY, 253. LILLY, 254. LILLY, 255. LILLY, 256. LILLY, 257. LILLY, 258. LILLY, 259. LILLY, 260. LILLY, 261. LILLY, 262. LILLY, 263. LILLY, 264. LILLY, 265. LILLY, 266. LILLY, 267. LILLY, 268. LILLY, 269. LILLY, 270. LILLY, 271. LILLY, 272. LILLY, 273. LILLY, 274. LILLY, 275. LILLY, 276. LILLY, 277. LILLY, 278. LILLY, 279. LILLY, 280. LILLY, 281. LILLY, 282. LILLY, 283. LILLY, 284. LILLY, 285. LILLY, 286. LILLY, 287. LILLY, 288. LILLY, 289. LILLY, 290. LILLY, 291. LILLY, 292. LILLY, 293. LILLY, 294. LILLY, 295. LILLY, 296. LILLY, 297. LILLY, 298. LILLY, 299. LILLY, 300. LILLY, 301. LILLY, 302. LILLY, 303. LILLY, 304. LILLY, 305. LILLY, 306. LILLY, 307. LILLY, 308. LILLY, 309. LILLY, 310. LILLY, 311. LILLY, 312. LILLY, 313. LILLY, 314. LILLY, 315. LILLY, 316. LILLY, 317. LILLY, 318. LILLY, 319. LILLY, 320. LILLY, 321. LILLY, 322. LILLY, 323. LILLY, 324. LILLY, 325. LILLY, 326. LILLY, 327. LILLY, 328. LILLY, 329. LILLY, 330. LILLY, 331. LILLY, 332. LILLY, 333. LILLY, 334. LILLY, 335. LILLY, 336. LILLY, 337. LILLY, 338. LILLY, 339. LILLY, 340. LILLY, 341. LILLY, 342. LILLY, 343. LILLY, 344. LILLY, 345. LILLY, 346. LILLY, 347. LILLY, 348. LILLY, 349. LILLY, 350. LILLY, 351. LILLY, 352. LILLY, 353. LILLY, 354. LILLY, 355. LILLY, 356. LILLY, 357. LILLY, 358. LILLY, 359. LILLY, 360. LILLY, 361. LILLY, 362. LILLY, 363. LILLY, 364. LILLY, 365. LILLY, 366. LILLY, 367. LILLY, 368. LILLY, 369. LILLY, 370. LILLY, 371. LILLY, 372. LILLY, 373. LILLY, 374. LILLY, 375. LILLY, 376. LILLY, 377. LILLY, 378. LILLY, 379. LILLY, 380. LILLY, 381. LILLY, 382. LILLY, 383. LILLY, 384

Nicaragua may have designs on neighbours, Weinberger says

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said that Nicaragua's arms build-up may indicate that the leftist Sandinist government has designs on neighbouring Honduras and El Salvador.

He acknowledged in a televised interview Saturday, however, that the U.S. has only circumstantial evidence to back up its contention that Nicaragua may be considering aggressive action against its neighbours, who are U.S. allies. But he termed the circumstantial evidence "compelling."

He said the flow of arms from Soviet Bloc countries to Nicaragua through the Panama Canal had increased dramatically over the past three years with shipments rising from 890 tonnes in 1981 to more than 15,000 tonnes this year.

Ships traversing the canal must declare their cargo "and this year there's been a very substantial in-

crease in military-associated cargo coming from the Soviet Union and its satellites, Libya and Bulgaria, places like that, in Nicaragua.

"This is an indication of the rapidity and the size of the military buildup in Nicaragua, far beyond anything they need to protect themselves," he said.

Asked what evidence the administration had to support its contention that Nicaragua was planning to attack Honduras and El Salvador, Mr. Weinberger said: "Just the circumstantial evidence of the enormous buildup of military supplies that... I characterise as offensive weapons."

U.S. intelligence sources said earlier this week that at least five

Soviet Bloc ships were sailing toward Nicaragua with munitions for the Sandinists. The Pentagon said three Soviet cargo ships had passed through the Panama Canal.

"I think the ones that went through the canal have declared that they have some military equipment on — trucks and military vehicles, I think petroleum supplies, ammunition," Mr. Weinberger said.

"So from that, some people deduce the fact that they must be getting ready for some kind of offensive activity against their neighbours," he said.

In Nicaragua Saturday night, port officials said three Soviet freighters loaded with urgently needed food and medicine as well as newsprint and construction machinery had docked in the Pacific port of Corinto.

The officials said there were no arms or munitions on any of the

vessels, named as the Novogrudovok, Anna Ilanova and Ilya.

Nicaragua, fighting a war on two fronts against rebels based in Honduras and Costa Rica, is desperately short of a wide range of basic goods.

The United States has financed and trained the rebels and cut off aid to Nicaragua, accusing it of promoting turmoil in Central America by trying to export its Marxist revolution.

U.S. intelligence reports last week that a Soviet freighter was carrying MiG-21 fighter planes to Nicaragua sparked a crisis in Managua.

Washington said delivery of the MiGs to Nicaragua would upset the balance of power in the region.

No MiGs were delivered but Nicaragua, fearing a U.S. invasion, put its 60,000 troops on full alert and mobilised and armed thousands of civilians.

OAS backs Contadora peace efforts

BRASILIA (R) — The Organisation of American States (OAS) ended its 14th annual general assembly Saturday night by approving a resolution backing efforts of the so-called Contadora Group to find a peaceful solution to conflicts in Central America.

The support for Contadora was one of nearly 50 resolutions on issues ranging from drugs and human rights to the disputed Falkland Islands passed by the final plenary session of the 31-member body.

Closing the six-day meeting, Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro thanked delegates for their willingness to restore confidence in the OAS.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Gustavo Fernandez said the Brazilia meeting would be remembered for the "political consensus" that members showed over the need to find solutions to the region's great problems.

The meeting has been overshadowed at its outset by a rising war of words between the United

States and Nicaragua, with the Central American country accusing Washington of planning to invade it. The United States denied any such intention.

Despite the unanimous vote in support of the efforts of the four-country Contadora, comprising Panama, Venezuela, Mexico and Colombia, Washington expressed reservations during the meeting about the lack of guarantees in the group's peace plan for inspection and verification of arsenals and forces.

Ustinov issues anniversary order

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov Sunday issued an order marking an army anniversary, in what diplomats saw as a move to quell speculation that he was seriously ill.

Marshal Ustinov, 76, a senior member of the ruling politburo, has not been seen in public since the end of September and failed to turn up as scheduled to take the salute at the Nov. 7 Red Square military parade. Fellow politburo member Viktor Grishin told reporters Marshal Ustinov had a cold.

Sunday's brief order, published in the Red Star army daily and issued by TASS News Agency, marks the "Day of Rocket Forces and Artillery" in the Soviet Union Monday.

The report was made by the

Bikini Atoll Rehabilitation Committee, an independent body of scientists commissioned by the U.S. Congress.

It was welcomed enthusiastically by Jonathan Weisgal, a Washington lawyer representing 1,200 Bikinians campaigning for the United States to

pay the clean-up bill.

The United States set off the first hydrogen bomb on the atoll, 2,500 miles south west of Hawaii, in one of 23 nuclear tests conducted there between 1946 and 1958.

Recalling original estimates that the process could cost up to \$120 million Mr. Weisgal told Reuters: "Forty million is peanuts, particularly over four years. I don't think anyone is going to be inclined to react negatively."

The islanders say they were persuaded to leave Bikini by a promise that the United States would restore their home of lagoons and coconut palms to a habitable condition when the tests were over.

Forty years on, the Reagan administration plans to grant self-rule to the Marshall Islands, of which the atoll is part. Legislation to be proposed to Congress would absolve the United States of any responsibility for the

territory greater autonomy but there will be no move on independence until at least 1989.

Officials said there was no trouble in the south of the island and despite heavy rain there was a big voter turnout, particularly in the capital, Nouna, where most whites live.

But in some eastern and western coastal centres the FLNKS set up road blocks, occupied town halls and intimidated voters, police said.

There were reports of dozens of casualties among police and militants and police said the biggest battles were at the eastern towns of Hienghene and Ponerihouen. There were also major fights at the west coast towns of Kone and Gomen.

A town hall was razed at Ponerihouen on the east coast and several other town halls were occupied by FLNKS militants, police said.

FLNKS militants snatched and ran off with a ballot box in the village of Pothe in the centre of the country.

On the east coast island of Lifou, only one of seven voting centres was open as polling began at 8.00 a.m. because the FLNKS had blocked roads with felled trees.

But French officials remained confident of a good turnout among the eligible 80,000 electorate, voting for ten parties.

The election winner seems certain to be the Conservative Republican Party (RCP), which is supported by the majority of the 54,000 whites.

PEKING (AP) — A car smuggling ring involving hundreds of duty-free vehicles and huge bribes has been smashed in southern China's Guangdong province, according to an official press report. The China Legal News reported in its Nov. 16 edition that authorities in the prosperous province bordering Hong Kong have sent an emergency circular to local officials warning against "this unhealthy tendency." The report said "many" of the more than 10,000 duty-free motor vehicles imported into the province this year were smuggled in illegally. It named the guilty parties as Communist Party officials, customs officers, grassroots government units and enterprises.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aides are expecting perhaps 60,000 people to attend parties following President Ronald Reagan's formal inauguration on Jan. 21, a top White House official said Saturday. Deputy White House Chief of Staff Michael K. Deaver, who has been given overall charge of the inauguration planning, said Saturday that 18,000 people could fit in the convention centre in Washington, making it an attractive site for two or more of the traditional post-inaugural balls. By law Reagan will be sworn in on Jan. 20. But since that falls on a Sunday, the president will be sworn in a private ceremony on Jan. 20 and the traditional ceremony will be held the following day in front of the Capitol.

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